

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Please note that a supplemental information disclosure statement (SIDS) has been filed concurrently with the present response. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and initial the cited references.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for conducting an in-person interview with applicant's representative on April 22, 2003. Although agreement as to specific claim amendment was not reached, the discussion with Examiner Nguyen was helpful in facilitating and progressing the prosecution of the present application.

Formal drawings were filed in the previous response on December 19, 2003. A courtesy copy of those formal drawings are again submitted herewith. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the drawings as formal as previously filed.

Claims 11-15, 18-21, 25-27, 30 and 32-53 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 11-14, 20, 25-27, 32, 34, 36 and 37 are amended. Claim 16 has been cancelled. Claims 38-53 have been added. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully submits that, upon entry of the subject amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance. Applicant, thus, respectfully requests consideration of the above amendment and following remarks.

In the pending office action: (1) claims 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,599,598 to Komoda *et al.*

("Komoda"); and (2) claims 11-16, 18-21, 25-27, 30 and 37 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration and allowance of claims 11-16, 18-21, 25-27, 30 and 37. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of the remaining claims. The rejections of claims 32-36 are respectfully traversed based on the following.

Briefly, the present invention relates to isolating data in a power line communications system. As shown in the various embodiments of Figures 3-5, the invention may be comprised of a filter and a power line communication (PLC) repeater that is connected to a power line on each side of the filter. As shown in Figure 2, the invention also may comprise one or more filters and a PLC router that are in communication with the power lines. In the example embodiment of Figure 5, the repeater is connected to the power line on the transformer side of the filter and on the subscriber side of the electric meter, thereby providing a bypass for data around the meter (and filter). Also, as explained throughout the present specification, and particularly at paragraph 25 on page 5, the invention permits data intended for the subscriber to enter the subscriber premises, but substantially prohibits noise (and perhaps other data) from entering the subscriber premises.

Rejection of claims 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komoda. As is well known to those skilled in the art (and illustrated in Figure 1 of the present specification), the low voltage branch lines typically meet at a juncture before being connected to the distribution

transformer power. Independent method claims 32, 34, and 36 have been amended. Claim 34, as amended, now recites "coupling a low pass filter to the first branch between the juncture and the power meter." Claim 34, as amended, now recites "coupling a low pass filter to the first branch line between the first subscriber premises and the juncture." Claim 37 has been similarly amended. Thus, claims 34, 36 and 37 have been amended to more clearly recite the location of the coupling of the low pass filters.

In addition, independent claim 32 has been amended to include "wherein the low pass filter attenuates high frequency noise traversing the first branch line." Claims 34 and 36 have been similarly amended. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification, and particularly at paragraph 5 on pages 1-2, where it states that "[n]oise from another subscriber using a different type of power line communication system or noise from another subscriber's appliances may cause interference."

Komoda does not contemplate using a filter and repeater to attenuate noise on a branch line, for example, to reduce the noise entering a subscriber premises. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Newly added dependent claims 46, 52 and 53 claim a repeater that "prevents data transmitted from the second subscriber premises from entering the first subscriber premises." As stated in the present specification at paragraph 5 on page 1, undesirable "noise from another subscriber using a different type of power line communication system" may enter the subscriber's premises. Also, as stated in the

present specification at paragraph 25 on page 5, "[a] power line data repeater . . . regenerates the data." Also, at paragraph 30 on page 6 of the present specification, the repeater "achieves a better signal-to-noise ratio." Those skilled in the art understand that this repeater regeneration process demodulates received data and modulates the data before transmitting it. In addition, some repeaters repeat all data received while others repeat only select data received. For example, some repeaters may receive data that has a different encryption key or a different address (e.g., from another subscriber using a different type of power line communication system) and upon receiving such data may not (and in some instances cannot) retransmit such data.

Newly added dependent claims 38-40, 42-45 and 48-51 are directed to various example embodiments of the low pass filter. Support for these new claims is found throughout the present specification, and particularly at paragraphs 23 and 24, on pages 4-5. Also, support for newly added dependent claims 41 and 47 is found throughout the present specification, and particularly at paragraph 31 on pages 6-7.

Because none of the prior art references cited in the office action discloses, teaches or suggests the combination of claimed elements, Applicant respectfully submits that pending independent claims 32, 34 and 36 are in condition for allowance. Likewise, because a dependent claim includes all the limitations of the claim from which it depends, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 41-46, which depend from independent claim 32, dependent claims 47-52, which depend from independent claim 34, and dependent claim 53, which depends from independent claim 36, are in condition for allowance.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art references and that the application stands in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that all pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

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CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Vincent J. Roccia, at (215) 564-8946, to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic interview.

If an additional extension is necessary for this amendment to be considered timely filed, a written conditional petition therefore is hereby made. Authorization is hereby granted to charge any deficiencies in fees, including any fees for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to Deposit Account 23-3050. Please credit any overpayment in fees to the same deposit account.

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Vincent J. Roccia
Registration No. 43,887

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439